these homes as possible. Going from house to house depends on the NGOs running medical mobile clinics; whether their doctors go from house to house. I am sure they do, but I would say, a larger percentage of people walk a little distance to the Camp.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Fall in the Output of Major PSUs

*102 SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Major PSUs output dips" reported in the Statesman, dated the 9th May, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the overall production growth of PSUs has fallen considerably during the year 2000-2001;

(c) if so, the factors responsible for such a steep fall in production growth of PSUs; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to achieve the target of production growth of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Production of the PSUs under the Department of Heavy Industry has fallen marginally by 0.50% during 2000-01 as compared to 1999-2000.

(c) The basic reasons for decline in production are shortage of working capital, paucity of orders, obsolete technology and high cost of production due to many factors including excessive manpower. With regard to PSUs which have registered steep decline, it may be mentioned that MAMC, TCIL, CCI & HEC are sick compaines under reference to BIFR. BIFR has already given orders for winding up of MAMC. Permission for closure of Tangra unit of TCIL has

been given. Most of the units of CCI are non-operational. HMT is in the midst of implementing a rehabilitation package approved by the Government.

(d) Efforts for revival of sick PSUs include financial restructuring wherever appropriate, implementation of rehabilitation schemes to improve long term viability through BIFR in case of sick PSUs and independently in case of others. The Government also gives fianancial support for investment for de-bottlenecking, urgent renewals/replacements etc. and non-plan support for rationalisation of manpower etc. The Government also gives assistance in securing orders and recovery of dues.

**Assessment of demand for steel in rural market**

*106. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL engaged Institute of Rural Management, Anand to undertake a study to assess the trend of demand for steel material in the rural market;

(b) if so, the details of the study report;

(c) whether SAIL proposes to set up rural service centres particularly in Gujarat to make available of steel items; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) As a part of the strategy to tap the potential rural market, SAIL has engaged Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRM) to undertake a study to assess the current trend of demand for steel material in the rural market segment in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra & Rajasthan. IRM are also required to suggest, *inter alia,* specific marketing actions and to assess the need to promote the concept of service centres. Institute of Rural Management, Anand is yet to submit its report.